



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
CALIFORNIA DIVISION  
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Mr. Jeff Morales, Director  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500  
For Greg Wong, Office Chief - Federal Transportation Program Management

Dear Mr. Morales:

**SUBJECT: AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION FOR AMBAG'S  
AMENDED 1999 MTP UPDATE AND 2000/01-2002/03 MTIP/FSTIP  
AMENDMENTS 1& 2**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our review of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) conformity determination for the 1999 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update Amendment and 2000/01-2002/03 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) including Amendment Nos. 1 and 2. The joint FTA/FHWA air quality conformity determinations for AMBAG's 1999 MTP Update Amendment and amended 2000/01-2002/03 MTIP is required by Section 93.104 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Transportation Conformity Rule and Section 450.326 of the FHWA/FTA Metropolitan Planning Regulations.

The AMBAG Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2001-06 on January 10, 2001, approving MTIP Amendment No. 1 and reaffirming the conformity of the amended MTIP with the state implementation plan (SIP) for air quality. The Board adopted Resolution No. 2001-16 on May 9, 2001, approving Amendment No. 1 to the 1999 MTP Update and Amendment No. 2 to the 2000/01-2002/03 MTIP, and reaffirming the conformity of AMBAG's amended 1999 MTP Update and 2000/01-2002/03 MTIP, including Amendment Nos. 1 and 2, with the state implementation plan (SIP) for air quality.

The Transportation Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the amendments to the 1999 MTP Update and the 2000/01-2002/03 MTIP Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 indicate that all air quality conformity requirements have been met. Based on our review, we accept these air quality conformity determinations in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 as well as the June 18, 1999, U.S. DOT's *Additional Guidance for the Implementation of the Circuit Court Decision Affecting Transportation Conformity*. We find that the 1999 MTP as amended by AMBAG Resolution No. 2001-16, and Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 to the 2000/01-2002/03

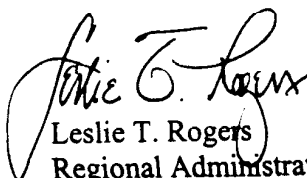
MTIP as set forth in AMBAG Resolution Nos. 2001-06 and 2001-16, conform to the applicable provisions of the State Implementation Plan as set forth in the current 1994 Federal Maintenance Plan for the Monterey Bay Region.

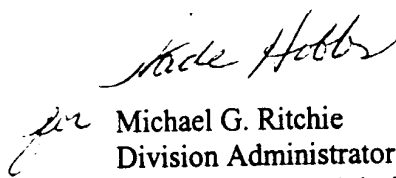
This letter constitutes joint FTA/FHWA approval for the inclusion of the following projects in California's 2000/01-2002/03 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP):

1. The State Route 68 (SR 68 - Holman Highway) widening project as described in AMBAG's MTIP Amendment No. 1 and adopted by the AMBAG Board on January 10, 2001 by Resolution No. 2001-06. As detailed in the FHWA's April 23, 2001, letter to the California Department of Transportation, FSTIP programming approval for this project was previously withheld by FTA and FWHA pending the inclusion of the project in the constrained action element of the MTP.
2. With one exception, the projects detailed in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program Amendment No. 2 as adopted by the AMBAG Board by Resolution No. 2001-16 on May 9, 2001. Pending an amendment to the MTIP that provides the current triennial element (i.e. FY 00/01-02/03) funding information for the proposed San Benito County bus purchase project (MPO ID: 5470), we are unable to approve the inclusion of this project in the current FSTIP. As submitted, there are no Federal, State or local funds currently programmed for this bus purchase project.

We find that AMBAG's amended 1999 MTP Update and 2000/01-2002/03 MTIP including Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 have been developed through a process substantially in accord with 23 USC 134 and 49 USC section 53. Our planning and conformity findings have been coordinated with the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Sincerely,

  
 Leslie T. Rogers  
 Regional Administrator  
 Federal Transit Administration

  
 Michael G. Ritchie  
 Division Administrator  
 Federal Highway Administration

cc:

2000/01-2002/03 AMBAG FTIP Binder with Caltrans letter

EPA, Charnjit Bhullar

AMBAG, Kathy Urlic

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